

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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SUBJ: SENGHOR COMMENTS ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK,
RELATIONS WITH US, INTERNAL POLITICS AND SENEGALESE
DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

REF: DAKAR 6683

SUMMARY: IN NOV 22 MEETING WITH TREASURY, CONGRESSIONAL AND
EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES, PRESIDENT SENGHOR ATTRIBUTED EXCLUSION
OF OUTSIDE POWERS FROM AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO "GHETTO
SPIRIT" IN AFRICA. HE STRESSED SENEGAL'S DESIRE FOR DURABLE
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COOPERATION WITH US AND SPOKE OF INFLUENCE AMERICAN WRITERS HAD

HAD ON HIM IN DEVELOPING CONCEPT OF "NEGRITUDE." HE CALLED SENEGAL'S SYSTEM OF PLURALIST, MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY UNIQUE IN AFRICA, AND COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS EVEN ROOM FOR MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY IN SENEGAL, ALTHOUGH LOCAL COMMUNISTS SEEMED TO PREFER CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION. HE ALSO STRESSED SENEGALESE PRIORITY ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN, AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO EXTENDING BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT TO SMALL FARMERS AND NARROWING WIDE GAP BETWEEN HIGHEST AND LOWEST SALARIES IN SENEGAL'S ECONOMY. SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL HAD WITHDRAWN ITS CANDIDACY FOR PARIS PRODUCER-CONSUMER MEETING IN FAVOR OF IVORY COAST. END SUMMARY.

1. IN NOV 22 MEETING WITH TREASURY/CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GRANDER, PRESIDENT SENGHOR COMMENTED ON INTERNAL SENEGALESE POLITICS, DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES, RELATIONS WITH US, AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND PARIS PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE (AS WELL AS MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY).

2. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK: ASKED WHY BANK DID NOT FOLLOW PATTERN OF OTHER REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN ACCEPTING MEMBERS OUTSIDE AREA, SENGHOR SAID "GHETTO SPIRIT" EXISTED IN AFRICA. HE SAID HE AND AFRICAN CONTEMPORARIES IN FRANCE IN 1930S HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT RACIST IN INITIAL THINKING ON NEGRITUDE. HOWEVER, TWO YEARS IN WORLD WAR II CAPTIVITY AND STUDY OF GREEK CIVILIZATION (WHICH HE SAID HAD DRAWN ITS STRENGTH FROM CULTURAL MIXTURE WITH ETHIOPIA) HAD CURED HIM OF RACISM. CONCEPT OF NEGRITUDE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF OPENING TOWARD OTHER CULTURES. BY CONTRAST WITH SENEGAL, HE SAID, OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES STILL POSSESSED SOMETHING OF GHETTO SPIRIT, AND THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN STRUCTURE OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

3. RELATIONS WITH US: EMPHASIZING FRANKNESS AND HONESTY WITH WHICH HE FELT ABLE TO TALK WITH US REPRESENTATIVES (AS OPPOSED, HE SAID, TO EUROPEANS), SENGHOR STATED THAT SENEGAL HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT DURABLE, CLOSE AND DYNAMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN "GREAT UNITED STATES AND LITTLE SENEGAL." RESPONDING TO TRIBUTE BY CONGRESSMAN PARREN MITCHELL TO LEADERSHIP WHICH SENGHOR HAD GIVEN BLACK AMERICANS IN REDISCOVERING BLACK HISTORY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULTURE, SENEGALESE PRESIDENT RECALLED INFLUENCE ON HIM OF WRITINGS BY AMERICAN BLACKS WHICH HE READ IN 1930'S. HE SAID HIS INSPIRATION HAD COME FROM AMERICA, AND HE MERELY REFLECTED FRENCH MANIA OF CONCEPTUALIZATION WHICH LED TO ELABORATION OF CONCEPT OF NEGRITUDE.

4. INTERNAL POLITICS: RECALLING HIS PAPER ON RE-READING MARX AND ENGELS DELIVERED AT JULY COLLOQUIUM ON SOCIALISM AND

DEMOCRACY IN TUNIS, SENGHOR SAID HE HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY MOSCOW FOR TRYING TO RENEW COLD WAR. HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WAS NEITHER COMMUNIST ON ONE HAND NOR DID HE WANT TO FOSTER COLD WAR ON OTHER. HE SAID PLURALIST, MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY EXISTED IN SENEGAL, DESCRIBING GOVERNING UPS AS "RADICAL" OR PROGRESSIVE PARTY, OPPOSITION PDS (SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY) AS PARTY OF "CENTER-RIGHT," AND OBSERVING THAT THERE WAS ALSO ROOM FOR MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY IN SENEGAL, THOUGH COMMUNISTS SEEMED TO PREFER TO HAVE CLANDESTINE ORGANIZATION.

SENGHOR REFERRED TO SENTENCING ON OCTOBER 18, 1975, OF 12 MEMBERS OF LEFTIST "AND DIEUF" (UNITY THROUGH ACTION) MOVEMENT ARRESTED LAST JUNE (DAKAR 3932) ON CHARGES OF DISTRIBUTING ILLEGAL POLITICAL TRACT "XARE BI" (WAR); SENGHOR POINTED OUT THAT ACCUSED HAD HAD BATTERY OF LOCAL AND FRENCH LAWYERS TO REPRESENT THEM. (EMBASSY NOTE: SENTENCES RANGED FROM EIGHT MONTHS' TO 18 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT, WITH THREE RELEASED AND ONE GIVEN SUSPENDED SENTENCE OF SIX MONTHS IN PRISON. "PARIS LAWYER" HENRI LE CLERC LED DEFENSE, WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IDENTIFIED BY PRESS AS "MISS PICARD" JOINING DEFENSE.)

5. DEVELOPMENT: SENGHOR STRESSED THAT SENEGALESE APPROACH TO SOCIALISM DID NOT INVOLVE VIOLENCE OR ATHEISM BUT RATHER ENTAILED SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO ACHIEVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS. HE STRESSED MORE EQUITABLE SYSTEM OF LAND TENURE WHICH HE HAD INSTITUTED, EMPHASIZED BENEFITS TO SMALL FARMERS OF MASSIVE PROJECTS SUCH AS THOSE PROJECTED UNDER OMVS UMBRELLA, AND DESCRIBED CONTINUING FIGHT TO NARROW GAP BETWEEN POOREST AND "OUTRAGEOUSLY" HIGHLY PAID PERSONNEL AT TOP OF SALARY STRUCTURE IN SENEGALESE ECONOMY. DESCRIBING SENEGAL'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN, SENGHOR STRESSED OVERRIDING PRIORITY PLACED ON EDUCATION AND CULTURE, NOTING THAT THEY ACCOUNTED FOR 33 PERCENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF RECURRENT BUDGET. HE FAVORABLY COMPARED CURRENT NUMBER OF SENEGALESE BACCALAUREAT CANDIDATES (6,000 OF WHOM 3,000 PASSED) WITH FIGURES FOR POPULATION AND CANDIDATES FOR FRANCE IN YEAR 1920. HE SAID WITHIN FOUR YEARS SENEGAL WOULD BE GRADUATING OVER 500 ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS EACH YEAR.

8. PARIS PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE: LOOKING FORWARD TO DECEMBER RESUMPTION OF PARIS PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE IN SPIRIT OF "DYNAMIC COMPROMISE," SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL HAD BEEN AMONG CANDIDATES TO REPRESENT GROUP OF 77 BUT HAD AGREED TO WITHDRAW CANDIDACY IN FAVOR OF IVORY COAST.
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